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- 5.—*A Sermon, preached at St Philip's Church, August 21, 1825.*
BY CHRISTOPHER E. GADSDEN, *on the Occasion of the*
Decease of General Charles Cotesworth Pinckney. Charleston, S. C. 8vo. pp. 31. A. E. Miller.

AMONG the names, which are illustrious in the revolutionary and political annals of this country, that of Charles Cotesworth Pinckney holds a distinguished rank. This veteran in the cause of American independence and liberty, has died within the last year, leaving behind him a fame, which his cotemporaries have honored, and which posterity will cherish. Another light is extinguished, which shone brightly in the deep gloom, that hung at one time over our national destiny; another head is laid low, which was erect and firm amidst the perils, that exhibited an appalling aspect even to the wisest and the bravest. We can do no justice to this theme in the brief space, which at present is at our command, and shall merely add a few facts collected from Mr Gadsden's discourse.

Charles Cotesworth Pinckney was born in February, 1746. His father, Charles Pinckney, was a man of eminence, holding the office of Chief Justice, and being one of the King's Council. His mother was a daughter of George Lucas, Governor of the Island of Antigua, and it is recorded of her in Ramsay's History of South Carolina, that the culture of indigo was introduced into that province through her agency. The son was educated in England, first at Westminster, and then at Oxford. His law studies were pursued at the Temple in London, and he acquired military knowledge by his travels on the continent. 'As the strength of his mind rescued him from prejudice, so his virtuous principles prevented foreign attachments. He was an early, decided, and devoted promoter of the revolution, courting the scenes of difficulty and danger, and choosing to be the companion of Washington. The friendship of these illustrious individuals was never interrupted, and the younger enjoyed a series of marks of confidence, commencing with his appointment as *aid de camp*, greater than were bestowed upon any other man.' After the organisation of the government, General Pinckney was on two occasions invited to hold a place in the cabinet, once as Secretary of War, and once as Secretary of State. He was sent on a foreign mission of great importance, and 'it was as minister to France,' observes Mr Gadsden, 'that he is said to have uttered the sentiment so consistent with his high character; *Millions for defence, but not a cent for tribute.*' The command of the army, which was given to St Clair, was previously offered to him in 1791. He received from President Adams the appointment of Major General of the army. In the Appendix is an interesting account of the part he took, in the South Carolina State Convention of 1778, particularly as an advocate for religious toleration and liberty.

Speaking of General Pinckney as a patriot of the first order, Mr Gadsden remarks;

‘That the honored dead had this love of country, we know not from his professions, not so much from his services and sacrifices, great as they were, as from two incidents by which it was remarkably *tested*. [?] When war was declared against France, the second command, contrary to the reasonable expectations of many, was given not to General Pinckney, but to one who had been his junior in the army of the revolution. The third place in command was tendered to him, and he promptly accepted of it. His services were needed, and he would not withhold them. It may well be questioned, whether there was another man whose patriotism, in the conflict with self esteem and martial pride, could have thus memorably triumphed. The other instance occurred in the last war, when, differing from some with whom he had long concurred in political sentiment, who were perhaps incapable of a like magnanimity, he recommended his friends, who consulted him, to accept of military appointments, and declared, notwithstanding his advanced age, that he was prepared to do his part in the conflict. It would be aside from our purpose to shew that such a declaration, from such a man, at such a crisis, was invaluable. It belongs to history to calculate the amount of his claim, accumulated through a long life, on the public gratitude. But we must remark, that it beautifully harmonised with his whole conduct, and proved that the sentiment of which we are speaking was deeply rooted in his soul. Ambition has been called the infirmity of noble minds, and pride seems almost inseparable from elevated distinction. If he had these vices, it is gratifying to find them overcome, when the question was between them and the country.’ pp. 12, 13.

Mr Gadsden has drawn an interesting portrait of the character of General Pinckney, in all its relations, both as it was displayed in the humbler walks of private life, and in the high places of public trust. A biographical work, comprising the acts of General Pinckney, and an account of the events in which he was engaged, would be an acquisition to American history highly to be prized; and it is hoped, that such a tribute to his memory, and such a gift to his country, will not be withheld.

